

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claim 1-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A container comprising:

an ink for ink-jet recording including water and a pigment,

wherein a surface tension of the ink is not less than 40 mN/m, an amount of dissolved oxygen in the ink is not more than 4 mg/L, and the container shuts out oxygen.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method for producing an ink for ink-jet recording comprising water and a coloring agent wherein a surface tension of the ink is not less than 40 mN/m, the method comprising:

preparing the ink; and

applying a deoxidation treatment to the prepared ink so that an amount of dissolved oxygen contained in the ink is not more than 4 mg/L,

wherein the deoxidation treatment is performed by a vacuum thin film deoxidation method.

Claims 6-7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): The method for producing the ink for ink-jet recording according to claim 5, wherein the prepared ink is subjected to the deoxidation treatment so that the amount of dissolved oxygen contained in the ink is not more than 2.5 mg/L.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): An ink-jet recording apparatus comprising:

- a recording head which discharges an ink onto a recording medium to perform recording;
- a restoring unit which includes a suction cap for detachably covering a nozzle surface of the recording head, and a suction pump for sucking the ink contained in the recording head through the suction cap; and
- an ink container which accommodates the ink to be supplied to the recording head, wherein:
 - a surface tension of the ink is not less than 40 mN/m, and an amount of dissolved oxygen contained in the ink is not more than 4 mg/L.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the recording head is formed by stacking a plurality of thin plates with an adhesive.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein an ink flow passage, which is communicated with a nozzle, is formed in the recording head, and the adhesive is exposed to a wall surface of the ink flow passage.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the adhesive is an epoxy resin.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the amount of dissolved oxygen contained in the ink is not more than 2.5 mg/L.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the ink container is a replaceable ink cartridge.

Claims 15-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for producing an ink for ink-jet recording comprising water and a coloring agent wherein a surface tension of the ink is not less than 40 mN/m, the method comprising:

preparing the ink; and

applying a deoxidation treatment to the prepared ink so that an amount of dissolved oxygen contained in the ink is between 3 mg/L to about 4 mg/L;

~~The method for producing the ink for ink-jet recording according to claim 17,~~
wherein the deoxidation treatment is performed by a vacuum thin film deoxidation method.

Claim 19 (canceled)